

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3157

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: DECONTROL 12/31/1978

TAGS: ESTC, IZ

SUBJ: EXPORT TRANSACTION CHECK: AL HAZEN RESEARCH CENTER, BAGHDAD

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 577 (NOTAL), (B) TEHRAN 4577

1. SUMMARY: REF A GAVE USINT'S PRELIMINARY, FAVORABLE REPORT ABOUT EXISTENCE AND BONA FIDES OF SUBJECT CENTER. SUBSEQUENT CONTACTS HAVE CONFIRMED OUR INITIAL FAVORABLE IMPRESSION. END SUMMARY.

2. BAGHDAD 582 AND 606 DESCRIBED MEETINGS HELD EARLY MAY BY USINT OFFICERS WITH AL HAZEN INSTITUTE'S DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF. ON THOSE OCCASIONS INSTITUTE DIRECTOR MADE A POINT OF SHOWING USINT OFFICER EVERY ROOM IN INSTITUTE'S TEMPORARY QUARTERS AND ALL EQUIPMENT (INCLUDING AT LEAST TWO BOXES MARKED HEWLETT-PACKARD -- SEE REF B). ALSO CONDUCTED TEXAS MISSION ON TOUR OF FUTURE CAMPS.

3. ON MAY 15, USINTOFF HAD ONE HOUR MEETING WITH AMCITZ MICHAEL R. CABAK, PRESIDENT, CABAK ASSOCIATES (ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING) 1080 O'BRIEN DRIVE, MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA (TELEPHONE: 415-324-0691). CABAK HAS DESIGNED FUTURE CAMPUS FOR AL HAZEN RESEARCH INSTITUTE; ESTIMATED TO COST \$40 MILLION TO BUILD -- EXCLUSIVE OF EQUIPMENT WHICH MIGHT COST ANOTHER \$25 MILLION ACCORDING TO CABAK. CAMPUS WILL INCLUDE THREE R AND D BUILDINGS, HOUSING FOR 140 FAMILIES (FIVE APARTMENT BUILDINGS), 35 UNITS OF TWO

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STORY TOWN HOUSES, A DORMITORY FOR 150 SINGLE PERSONS, A COMBINED

LIBRARY (500,000 VOLUMES) - LECTURE HALL - ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER, A COMPUTER BUILDING (PROBABLY FOR A UNIVAC COMPUTER), A PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR DEPENDENTS OF STAFF, TWO DINING ROOMS, SIX TENNIS COURTS, A SMALL MARINA, AND A SHOPPING MALL. INSTITUTE ALSO WILLING TO EXPLORE CONTRACT (ESTIMATED COST \$15 MILLION) WITH TEXAS INSTRUMENTS COMPANY OR OTHER U.S. FIRMS TO DESIGN CURRICULUM AND TRAIN FACULTY.

4. ACCORDING TO AL HAZEN DIRECTOR DR. MARWAN BAHBA NAKSHBANDI, PROJECT HAS STRONG PERSONAL SUPPORT OF IRAQI PRESIDENT AHMED HASSAN AL-BAKR (WIDELY KNOWN TO BE DEEPLY COMMITTED TO SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION). 1976 BUDGET INDICATES SURPRISINGLY HIGH GOI EXPENDITURES FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. THIS COMMITMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH GOI'S CLEAR INTENTION TO RESTORE BAGHDAD TO ITS FORMER POSITION AS THE UNDISPUTED CAPITAL OF ARAB WORLD FOR SCIENCE AND CULTURE.

5. MR. CABAK, IN DISCUSSION WITH USINT, TOOK LION'S SHARE OF CREDIT FOR HAVING CONVINCED DR. NAKSHBANDI OVER PAST TWO YEARS OF THEIR ACQUAINTANCE TO LOOK EXCLUSIVELY TO USA FOR PURCHASE OF TECHNOLOGY IN FIELDS OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS, SEMICONDUCTORS, MOLECULAR PHYSICS, AND OPTICS IN GENERAL. NEITHER CABAK NOR USINT AWARE OF ANY SOVIET OR BLOC CONNECTION WITH AL HAZEN INSTITUTE. ALL OF THE CURRENT FACULTY WERE TRAINED EITHER IN IRAQ OR UK AND PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES ONLY IN UK OR U.S.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS: USINT RECOMMENDS THAT AL HAZEN INSTITUTE BE REGARDED AS A MAJOR OPPORTUNITY FOR SALES OF U.S. EQUIPMENT AND EXPERTISE FOR A RANGE OF RESEARCH PROJECTS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE SUCH SALES WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH U.S. INTERESTS IN IRAQ OR THE AREA. MORE DETAIL ABOUT THE PROPOSED BASIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH WHICH AL HAZEN PLANS TO UNDERTAKE IS AVAILABLE -- IF USDOC REQUIRES IT. FROM WHAT WE HAVE SEEN, HOWEVER, THE TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL AT WHICH THE INSTITUTE PLANS TO OPERATE IS NOWHERE NEAR THE OUTER LIMITS OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND IS PROBABLY BEING DUPLICATED AT A NUMBER OF RESEARCH FACILITIES AND LABORATORIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE POTENTIAL AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN AL HAZEN (THROUGH CABAK ASSOCIATES, THROUGH UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, THROUGH RICE UNIVERSITY, THROUGH TEXAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INSTRUMENTS -- IF THE TEXAS TRADE MISSION FOLLOWS UP AS IT PROMISED -- AND OTHER U.S. FIRMS) CAN BE VERY GREAT AND APPEARS TO BE A HIGHLY DESIRABLE U.S. GOAL, WHICH USG SHOULD FACILITATE.
WILEY

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